

Chief, St/A, OWR

15 August 1958

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[REDACTED]

Meeting with Members of Soviet Delegation on Hydro Engineering and Reclamation.

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1. At the suggestion of [REDACTED] I am submitting a report of subject meeting which took place this morning.

2. Late yesterday afternoon I received a call from Mr. Gordon Ebersole of the Bureau of Reclamation Department of the Interior, who informed me that the Soviet delegation would be at his office from 0830 - 1000 this morning. He invited me to be present, and I considered that it would be awkward for Mr. Ebersole if I did not greet them. [REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] when informed of this situation informed the [REDACTED] and obtained their approval for me to attend the meeting.

4. The meeting this morning was uneventful. Messrs. Ashchensky and Perkhrest greeted me warmly, and we had an interrupted series of short conversations. We had a brief discussion of their itinerary. Perkhrest responded to my questions about other members of the earlier delegation. We talked about the enjoyable week we had spent in San Francisco. Ashchensky introduced me to the rest of the delegation as an escort during their trip to San Francisco. The Soviets made no other reference or inquiry concerning me.

5. I would like to note my surprise at the references by officials of both Interior and Agriculture to the role of the State Department in restricting the itinerary of the Soviets. Their trip will include stops in Illinois, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah and Texas. This is not bad, when contrasted with the statement by Reclamation officials that the Soviets have not yet produced an itinerary for

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a reciprocal visit to their country by a group of US irrigation specialists. It's my feeling that US officials should be prepared to point out politely to Soviet visitors that all restrictions they will encounter arise from the fact that the USSR has put a substantial part of its territory off limits to Americans.

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cc: Chief, S/CST
Chief, D/S
Chief, ERA

Dissemination

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